

**Medicaid & Exchange Advisory Committee (Board)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
January 27, 2020

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Board Members Present: Joan Lavoie, Julie Tessler, Gladys Konstantin, Lisa Draper, Jessa Barnard (phone), Dale Hackett (phone), Erin Maguire, Kirsten Murphy, Jason Williams (phone), Kay Van Woert, Devon Green, Sharon Henault (phone), Helen Labun (phone), & Rebecca Heintz, Kelly Dougherty (phone).

**Other Interested Parties Present:** Susan Gretkowski (MVP, phone), Northeast Delta Dental, Kelly Barnier (Maximus), Barb Klein (phone, VLA), Spenser Weppler & Tom Borys (OneCare), & Sarah Steel (phone, Voices for Vermont's Children).

**State of Vermont Staff Present:**

Department of Vermont Health Access (DVHA): Commissioner Cory Gustafson, Deputy Commissioner Jenney Samuelson, Deputy Commissioner Addie Strumolo, Nissa James, Zachary Goss, Dan Fay, Steve Odefey, Suellen Bottiggi, Deidra Jarvis, Alicia Cooper.

Vermont Department of Health (VDH): Nathaniel Waite, Betty Morse

**Documents**

- MEAC 01\_27\_20 Agenda.pdf
- Advisory Committee PPT 1\_27\_2020.pdf

\*All are posted to the Vermont Health Connect website

**Convene**

Julie Tessler chaired the meeting.

**Chairperson Selection**

Zachary Goss, Healthcare Training and Communication Manager (DVHA): Due to the withdrawal of a chairperson nominee, the Committee decided to re-vote by electronic ballot with the updated list of nominees. Members will receive another request to vote with an updated nominee list.

**Upcoming Agendas**

Zachary Goss, Healthcare Training and Communication Manager (DVHA)

- Please see: *Advisory Committee PPT 1\_27\_2020.pdf* for more detail (slide 2)

Committee members requested additional agenda topics for the upcoming months. Discussion related to having policy changes as a recurring agenda item.

**Approval of Minutes**

December meeting minutes were approved.

**State Fiscal Year 2021 DVHA Budget**

Cory Gustafson, Commissioner (DVHA)

- Please see:  
<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/WorkGroups/House%20Human%20Services/AHS%20>

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[Budget%20Documents%202019-2020/AHS%20Proposed%20FY21%20Budget/W~Mike%20Smith~Agency%20of%20Human%20Services%20FY2021%20Budget%20Presentation~1-24-2020.pdf](#) (summary on slide 12)

<https://legislature.vermont.gov/Documents/2020/WorkGroups/House%20Appropriations/A.%20FY%202021%20State%20Budget/C.%20Human%20Services/W~Michael%20Smith,%20Secretary,%20Agency%20of%20Human%20Services~Agency%20of%20Human%20Services%20-%20FY21%20Agency-wide%20Crosswalks~1-28-2020.pdf> (more detail may be found on slides 7-9)

The Secretary of the Agency of Human Services will present the state fiscal year 2021 budget to the House Committee on Appropriations on Tuesday, January 28, 2020. Following the Secretary's budget presentation, the Agency's departments will begin their budget presentations. As the Department of Vermont Health Access is scheduled to present to the House Committee on Appropriations on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, it is important to walk through the Department's budget - program and administration.

**Vermont Medicaid Next Generation**

Alicia Cooper, Director of Payment Reform, Reimbursement and Rate Setting (DVHA)

- Please see: *Advisory Committee PPT 1\_27\_2020.pdf* for more detail (slide 6-17)

The Vermont Medicaid Next Generation Performance Year 2018 results were reviewed; due to time constraints, the second half of presentation (quality results) will be deferred to February agenda to allow for other topics to be presented today.

**Hi-Tech Services**

Jenney Samuelson, Deputy Commissioner (DVHA)

Addressing access issue for Hi-Tech nurses:

Overview:

- Hi-Tech services are provided to individuals experiencing significant disabilities and will need long-term, around the clock care
- Approximately 40 individuals in Vermont utilizing Hi-Tech services (17-20 Children, 20 Adults)
- Typically authorized for 30-120 hours per week in services
- Children typically receive 54% of authorized services and adults 50%.

2019 – Working with organizations to address situation. Recommendations include:

- Patients who have a nurse parent could have service provided by that parent who could be reimbursed
- Address family managed rate (services managed by home health agency vs. family)
- Evaluate service delivery method: hub model vs. specific agency model

Challenges:

- Nursing shortage

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- Within nursing shortage few nurses skilled to serve children
- In-home over long period of time, not all nurses are comfortable with this setting
- Services are repetitive and may be less stimulating
- Payment – patients may be in and out of hospital creating a lack of continuity of per diem payment
- Overall rates

**2019 Changes:**

- Family caregivers can now get paid to work with family members
- Increase rates for family management
- Explored Hub model (VDH administers for children, DAIL for adults)
- Ensured rates were included in the 2% increase for home health agencies

**2020**

- Explore payment reform which might give more payment flexibility and predictability, and address per diem rate issues
- Changes will take an incremental approach to lead to a systemic change

**Premium Processing Project Planning**

This agenda item was delayed to next month due to time constraints.

**HBEE Rule Update**

Addie Strumolo, Deputy Commissioner (DVHA)

- Please see: *Advisory Committee PPT 1\_27\_2020.pdf* for more detail (slide 25-34)

**Commissioner's Update-New DVHA website**

Cory Gustafson, Commissioner, Deidra Jarvis & Suellen Bottiggi (DVHA)

- New DVHA website will go live in February
- No remaining time to discuss website, but feedback is welcome.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was provided beyond the topics above.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

**Next Meetings**

**February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020**

**Time: 10:00AM – 12:00PM**

**Site: Waterbury State Office Complex, Waterbury, VT**

**Please visit the Advisory Committee website for up-to-date information:**

[http://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/advisory\\_board/meeting\\_materials](http://info.healthconnect.vermont.gov/advisory_board/meeting_materials)